

# tool 42 Facilitating UN Verification of Cases of Grave Violations

## Checklist

Information formally submitted to the Security Council must be UN-verified. For this reason, the UN may need to review documentation and cross-check information provided by NGOs, including through interviews with victims and witnesses. There are security, confidentiality and ethical aspects to take into consideration prior to UN verifications. NGOs who initially reported the case may want to ensure the following points are discussed and agreed upon with the MRM focal point prior to verification activities:

### Disclosure of information:

- Any disclosure of documentation or information for the purpose of UN verification is made in accordance with the confidentiality rules that were agreed upon by the source of that documentation or information.



### Re-interviewing:

- When possible, alternative means of verification could be identified to avoid re-interviewing victims or witnesses. In accordance with basic standards of practice, re-interviewing victims of violations should be avoided to prevent re-traumatization. This is particularly relevant for survivors of sexual violence.
- In case a re-interview by the UN is needed and does not pose a high risk of re-traumatization, confirm consent with the witness or victim in question. Consent given to your NGO for the first interview does not necessarily extend to the UN for a second interview.

### If a visit to the affected community or area is planned:

- Discuss the visit beforehand with the community to explain its purpose, assess expectations and any security risks that a UN visit might pose for the community.
- Advise the UN on appropriate measures to mitigate possible security risks for UN staff taking part in the visit, the community and your NGO (in particular if there are no other NGOs present in the area). This may include measures to reduce visibility (e.g., unmarked vehicles), alternative meeting venues, remote communication, etc.).
- Advise the UN on approaches needed to manage community expectations during and after the visit and devise a post-visit feedback plan.

## related tools

-  [tool 16 – Factsheet ‘NGO participation in the MRM: potential challenges and limitations’](#)
-  [tool 26 – Checklist ‘Before you engage in the MRM’](#)